

In 1993 Bruce was the co-host of the first annual Palo Alto Conference. This historic conference brought together academics, anthropologists, historians, political scientists, sociologists and military research analysts from both Mexico and the United States. It was the first time such a gathering occurred, and the lessons we all learned were monumental.

Mr. Speaker, Bruce Aiken is a special man who has taught the Brownsville community much more about our history than anyone could have ever imagined. He has added to the history of our area, and our community is grateful to him for his efforts to bolster our education so that we will be better able to understand our future. January 19, 1995, has been declared "Bruce Aiken Day" by the Board of Directors of the Historic Brownsville Museum Association. I hope my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Bruce Aiken, a very special patriot, historian and teacher.

**WILKES-BARRE SOCIAL SECURITY  
CENTER FOR DATA OPERATIONS  
CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 1995*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wilkes-Barre Center for Data Operations of the Social Security Administration. This facility provides employment for more than 1,000 residents in my district.

Although the facility is now housed in a brand-new, state-of-the-art complex, this was not always the case. In the early 1980's, the Social Security Administration sought to consolidate and modernize its operations in Wilkes-Barre, which at that time were scattered about several buildings in the area. The operation needed more space and the possibility existed that the entire operation would leave northeastern Pennsylvania.

After several setbacks in finding a location for a new facility, I testified before the Appropriations Committee on the need for funding a new building. In the fall of 1986, the House and Senate approved my amendment to provide funding for a brand new facility in the Wilkes-Barre area.

For almost 2 years, problems were encountered in finding an appropriate site for the new facility. Then, in late 1988, I worked with Governor Robert Casey and State senators and representatives to draft legislation to sell 200 acres of land in Plains Township to the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund which would convey 35 acres to the GSA for construction of the building. In the months to follow, GSA determined that the construction of the new facility would actually save more than \$9 million over the life of the facility. More funding was appropriated for the project in 1990. In continued partnership between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Federal Government, the appropriate State legislation was passed, and in late 1990, the legislation for the transfer of the land from the Commonwealth to the industrial fund was signed into law. In 1991, the site for the new building was announced to the public.

Mr. Speaker, one of the proudest moments of my tenure in Congress came on November

29, 1993 when I joined Federal, State, and local officials in dedicating the new Social Security Center in Plains Township. Dedicating the facility signified the realization of a goal which I set when I was first elected to Congress. This new building assured the continued presence of the SSA in my district and secured more than 1,000 jobs for my constituents.

The building stands today as a tribute to the work ethic of the people I serve. It is also a monument to the cooperation and partnership possible among the Federal, State, and local governments. I am extremely pleased to congratulate the WBDON on its 50th anniversary and to have this opportunity to thank the Social Security Administration again for its continued faith in the people of northeastern Pennsylvania.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE NEVADA  
FOREST PROTECTION ACT**

**HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 1995*

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, 6 years of persistent drought has produced large areas of dead and dying trees and other accumulated fuels in Nevada's forested lands. The 1994 wildfire season was the worst in history, and extreme wildfire danger still exists in many of the forested lands in Nevada, including the Lake Tahoe area which, in addition to the drought, has suffered years of insect infestation, resulting in a dangerous overloading of fuels.

Last year, over 780 wildfires occurred throughout Nevada, involving well over 215,000 acres affecting areas near Caliente, Hallelujah Junction, Panacea, Lone Mountain, Bull Run, Mahogany Springs, Holbrook Junction, and Verdi. Both Federal and State resources were stretched to the limit fighting fires across Nevada as well as helping out in other States.

The risk of intense wildfires threatening the safety of people and property, like the ones that flared across Nevada and other Western States last year, can be significantly reduced by removing excessive fuel accumulations including slash piles and dead trees that become fuel ladders.

Today I am reintroducing the Nevada Forest Protection Act to preserve the health of Nevada's forested lands and to protect the lives and property of those who live in or near forested lands. This legislation requires the U.S. Forest Service and the Interior Department, working with State officials, to identify high-fire-risk Federal forested lands and to clear the forest fuels in those areas. My bill also calls for a long-term fire prevention plan to be designed by the Forest Service and Interior so that the dangerous buildup of fuels will no longer continue unchecked.

Preemptive action now will be cost effective in the long run, since the cost of fighting fires as they occur is significant. This legislation is vital in the process of preventing wildfires and improving the health of our Federal forested lands. I hope all my colleagues will support my efforts to ensure responsible management of these invaluable lands.

**ALICE SPEARS TO CELEBRATE  
HER 100TH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. RAY LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 1995*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, January 21, 1995, will be a very special day in the lives of a wonderful family living in Peoria, IL.

Alice Agnes Spears will be celebrating her 100th birthday.

Her three sons, Joseph, George, and Bill, along with 13 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great grandchildren, with family and friends, will celebrate a life of caring and inspiration for those whose lives have been touched by this devoted lady.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Alice Agnes Spears a very happy 100th birthday.

**TRIBUTE TO WOODROW W. WOODY**

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 1995*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Woodrow W. Woody, president of Pontiac Motor Sales, Inc., parent company of the Woody Pontiac auto dealership in Hamtramck, MI.

Woodrow Woody is a remarkable person who has earned an impeccable reputation for hard work and service. In commemoration of Woody's 55 years of service, I am sharing a recent article from the Oakland Tech News that highlights Woody's American dream:

Never mind the Detroit Institute of Arts or Greenfield Village—the real treasure trove of local history is stored at the Woody Pontiac dealership in Hamtramck.

Woodrow W. Woody, president of Pontiac Motor Sales, Inc., parent company of Woody Pontiac, turned 87 years young on November 15 and his dealership celebrated 55 years of service on January 2.

After being honored by the Automotive Hall of Fame with its Distinguished Service Citation award recently, Woody, a friend of presidents and popes, took a few moments at his second-story office to talk about his career.

Woody finds great irony in being considered a civic institution in Hamtramck, where his Woody Pontiac dealership has been located at the northern end of Joseph Campau since January 2, 1940. Irony because Hamtramck has been known as Detroit's Polish enclave while he was born in Lebanon in the Middle East.

"When I first applied for the dealership, the district manager said, 'Hamtramck is all Polish and you're not Polish, so what do you want to go there for?'" Woody recalled. "I said, 'well, I'm dating a Polish girl so if you give me the franchise I'll marry her.'"

Franchise? Yes. Girl? Ditto.

Almost 55 years later both the dealership and his marriage to the former Anna Martes are still going strong. In between, Woodrow and Anna have had a life that most only dream of—owners of the Hillcrest Country Club in Mount Clemens, world travelers and